

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8895

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3470

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, WA, VN

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL SCHEDULING FOR SEPTEMBER: NAMIBIA  
AND VIETNAM

1. AT SECURITY COUNCIL LUNCHEON TODAY PRESIDENT ABE (JAPAN) ANNOUNCED HE HAD TALKED THIS MORNING WITH VIETNAMESE OBSERVER RE SCHEDULING OF SC CONSIDERATION OF VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. VIETNAMESE HAD TOLD HIM THEY WERE NOT ASKING THAT MATTER BE TREATED ON BASIS OF URGENCY. AS COURTESY TO AFRICANS, THEY WERE PREPARED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION OF NAMIBIA DEBATE. THIS STATEMENT BY ABE WAS MODIFIED SOMEWHAT BY LATER COMMENTS OF INCOMING SC PRESIDENT KIKHIA (LIBYA).

2. KIKHIA APPROACHED ME FOLLOWING LUNCHEON TO INDICATE HE WAS INTENT ON BEING AN IMPARTIAL, OBJECTIVE PRESIDENT AND PLANNED TO WORK WITH ALL MEMBERS ON EQUAL TERMS. HE SAID THAT AFRICANS HAD NOW DECIDED NOT TO BEGIN NAMIBIA DEBATE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 21 OR 22, WHEN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE ARRIVING FOR GA. THE INITIAL MEETING ON AUGUST 31 WOULD STILL GO FORWARD AS PLANNED. KIKHIA SAID THERE WAS SOME DISPOSITION IN AFRICAN GROUP TO HAVE CONSIDERATION EARLIER IN SEPTEMBER OF THE RECENT DISORDERS IN SOWETO AND ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE COMMENTED THAT HE, AND HE THOUGHT A MAJORITY OF THE AFRICANS, WERE NOT IN FAVOR OF BRINGING THE SOUTH AFRICA QUESTION INTO THE COUNCIL AT THIS TIME. HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD

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TAKE PLACE.

3. THAT, HE CONTINUED, LEFT THE VIETNAMESE APPLICATION PENDING. IN LIGHT OF LATE SEPTEMBER START NOW PLANNED FOR NAMIBIA, AND UNLIKELYHOOD IN HIS VIEW OF A SOUTH AFRICA DEBATE, THAT LEFT TIME TO SPEND; AND IT MIGHT BE WELL TO USE IT BY BRINGING UP VIETNAM QUESTION BEFORE NAMIBIA DEBATE. US POSITION WAS IMPORTANT IN THAT CASE. VIETNAMESE HAD TOLD HIM THEY WERE NOT ANXIOUS TO HAVE THEIR APPLICATION BROUGHT UP IF IT WERE SURE TO FACE A US VETO. COULD I GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION AS TO US ATTITUDE?

4. I TOLD KIKHIA I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP. I THEN WENT ON TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE (AND POIGNANCY) OF MIA ISSUE AND THE UNWILLINGNESS THUS FAR OF VIETNAMESE TO MOVE ON IT AS A MAJOR BLOCK TO ANY CHANGE IN OUR POSITION. I TOLD HIM VIETNAM'S FRIENDS COULD HELP BY COUNSELLING HANOI ON THE NECESSITY OF GIVING UP INHUMAN POSTURE THEY HAVE MAINTAINED UP TO NOW ON MIA QUESTIONS. I HAD SPOKEN IN SIMILAR VEIN TO SYG WALDHEIM AND ROMANIAN PERM REP EARLIER DURING LUNCHEON WHEN THEY HAD RAISED QUESTION OF VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP.

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